

## **ABSTRACT**

### **CONSTITUTIVE DISEASE RESISTANCE (CDR1) GENE AND METHODS OF USE THEREOF**

Substantially purified CDR1 polypeptide, isolated polynucleotides encoding CDR1 polypeptide, vectors containing CDR1, host cells expressing CDR1, and antibodies which bind to CDR1 are all provided. The invention also provides a method of producing a genetically modified plant characterized as having increased disease resistance as compared to wild-type plants. A method is also provided for identifying novel disease resistance genes by probing a nucleic acid library with at least a fragment of a polynucleotide encoding CDR1, and selecting those clones that hybridize with the fragment.